

# *Sketch*

---

*Volume 67, Number 2*

2003

*Article 20*

---

## My Mother's Bunion

Kristin Stoner\*

\*Iowa State University

Copyright ©2003 by the authors. *Sketch* is produced by The Berkeley Electronic Press (bepress).  
<http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/sketch>

# **My Mother's Bunion**

*Kristin Stoner*

I tell her I'm hot,  
and she tells me she's freezing,  
that her nose is cold  
and she can't feel her toes,  
especially the big one on the left  
where her bunion used to be,  
the one she had removed  
three years ago now,  
the one that made her decide  
to live with the one on the right

because it was all too painful  
to be opened up,  
to have bone sawed away  
in little pieces of bloody white.  
Something that had grown  
so gradually, so steadily  
over the years, becoming  
part of her, inside, under  
the skin, so she wasn't sure  
how to resent it  
when it beat with soreness.

And in the sharp hurting  
of severance,  
she hobbled to the kitchen  
against strict orders,  
and in her soft voice,  
so doubting of everything,  
confidence in nothing, no one,  
instructed me on how to stir  
canned soup, afraid  
I was taking care of her,  
and she told me there was no way  
she was having the other one done.